

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough review of the present application, and respectfully request reconsideration in light of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application. Claims 1-4 have been amended to better define the invention. Claims 5-15 have been added to provide Applicants with the scope of protection to which they are believed entitled. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

The claim objection is believed overcome in view of the above amendments.

The 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection of claim 1 as being anticipated by *Freedman* (U.S. Patent No. 4,543,139) is traversed, because the reference fails to teach or disclose each and every element of the rejected claim, i.e., a sticker comprising **a second adhesive layer is provided inside the other end of the sheet piece formed into a predetermined plane shape**. The Examiner did not specify what element of the *Freedman* reference is readable on the claimed other end side of a planar sheet piece. Clarification is respectfully requested.

The 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection of claims 1 and 3 as being anticipated by *Xie* (U.S. Patent No. 6,503,620) is traversed, because the reference fails to teach or disclose each and every element of the rejected claim, i.e., a sticker comprising **a second adhesive layer is provided inside the other end of the sheet piece formed into a predetermined plane shape**. The Examiner did not specify what element of the *Xie* reference is readable on the claimed other end side of a planar sheet piece. Clarification is respectfully requested.

Claim 3 is not anticipated by *Xie* at least for the reason advanced with respect to claim 1.

The 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of claims 2 and 4 as being obvious over *Xie* is traversed

because the reference fails to disclose, teach or suggest the invention of claims 2 and 4. The Examiner's reliance on *In re Boesch* for the rationale that it would have been obvious to modify the distance between the layers, since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art, is noted. The Examiner's rationale is flawed for two reasons.

First, the distance between the *Xie* adhesive layers is not modifiable because it is always zero. Note Figs. 1-4 of *Xie* where the adhesive layers are depicted to be always in contact with each other. See also the rightmost portions of FIGs. 6-7 of *Xie*.

Second, the Examiner's reliance on *In re Boesch* is misplaced. It should be noted that while *In re Boesch* still remains good law, there are numerous exceptions to this rule e.g. *In re Antonie*, 559 F.2d 618, 195 USPQ 6 (CCPA 1977) discussed in *MPEP* section 2144.05. II. B. The court in *In re Antonie* stated that "a particular parameter must first be recognized as a result-effective variable, i.e., a variable which achieves a recognized result, before the determination of the optimum or workable ranges of said variable might be characterized as routine experimentation." Id. Applicants note the Examiner's reliance on column 17, lines 45-58 of *Xie*. This passage teaches varying slot 60 and tip 58 to obtain various geometries of the adhesive coating. As can be seen in FIGs. 5-7, especially FIGs. 6-7, of *Xie*, varying slot 60 and tip 58 only results in various thicknesses of, rather than distances between, the adhesive coatings. Thus, in this particular case, application of *In re Boesch* is improper because the art, prior to the present invention, has not recognized the claimed distance as a result-effective variable.

Withdrawal of the art rejections of all claims is believed appropriate and therefore courteously solicited.

Of particular note, both applied references disclose various arrangements of adhesive layers in the thickness direction, and therefore, do not fairly teach or suggest the unique arrangement of

adhesive regions of the present invention. Solely for the purpose of expediting prosecution, claims 1-2 have been amended to highlight this distinction.

New claims 5-6 depend from claims 1 and 2, respectively, and are considered patentable at least for the reasons advanced with respect to claims 1 and 2. Claims 5-6 are also patentable on their own merits since these claims recite other features of the invention neither disclosed, taught nor suggested by the applied art, as will be apparent to the Examiner upon reviewing these claims.

New independent claim 7 is clearly patentable over the applied references because the references fail to disclose, teach or suggest **first and second adhesive regions both disposed on one major surface** of a sheet material and **the second adhesive region being spaced from the first adhesive region** and an opposite edge of said sheet material by first and second areas of said major surface of said sheet material, wherein the **second area is free of adhesive material**.

New claims 8-15 depend from claim 7, and are considered patentable at least for the reason advanced with respect to claim 7. Claims 8-15 are also patentable on their own merits since these claims recite other features of the invention neither disclosed, taught nor suggested by the applied art.

For example, claims 8 and 10 are also patentable for the reasons advanced with respect to claims 2 and 4, respectively.

Claim 11 is also patentable because the art fails to disclose, teach or suggest that the sheet material is rectangular and the first and second adhesive regions include **adhesive strips** extending parallel to the opposite edges of said rectangular sheet material.

Claim 12 is also patentable because the art fails to disclose, teach or suggest that **a width of said first area is smaller than the width of said second area**. See Fig. 2 of the instant application.

Claim 13 is also patentable because the art fails to disclose, teach or suggest that **the first area is free of adhesive material**. See Figs. 2 and 6 of the instant application.

Claim 15 is also patentable because the art fails to disclose, teach or suggest that **the opposite edge of said sheet material is free of adhesive material**. See Figs. 1-6 of the instant application.

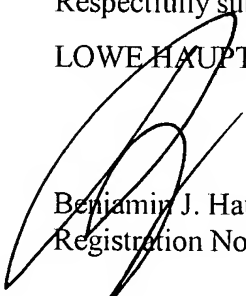
Each of the Examiner's rejections has been traversed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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